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# Probe Of Birchians Sought

DEVILS LAKE (AP)—Dr. S. B. Hocking, Democratic national committeeman for North Dakota, today asked the U. S. attorney general to launch an investigation of the John Birch Society.



Hocking, in a letter to Atty. Gen. Robert Kennedy, asked that the "right-wing John Birch Society be investigated to determine what the real design of this society may be."

Hocking termed the organization "secret" and said it was "engaging in activities detrimental to the welfare of the United States at a time of grave international peril."

In his letter Hocking defended former President Eisenhower, Chief Justice Earl Warren and Central Intelligence Agency Chief Allen Dulles, all of whom have come under attack by the society.

"When international communism is threatening the security of this country and free world by its actions in Laos, the Congo and other places," Hocking wrote, "we Americans cannot afford to be weakened and divided at home by such undermining activities as those being employed by the John Birch Society in North Dakota and other states."

The committeeman also said, "in certain areas of North Dakota, this organization is creating a frightening type of fear psychology that is distracting from the serious communist inspired tensions abroad."

Hocking said the Birch Society is "doing all in its power" in North Dakota to weaken the League of Women Voters, described it as "one of Democracy's strongest forces."

He said other North Dakota groups and individuals, including some church people, have come under attack by the society and that "the net result of this John Birch activity, at a critical period in this nation's history, is that Communists - under - every - bell - tactics are being used against Republicans and Democrats alike."

He concluded, "I urge the Justice Department to consider an investigation of this organization to determine what the real design of the John Birch Society may be."